

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa* A Citation

Professor Au Ho-nien, PhD (Hon), DA (Hon)

A master of the three perfections in Taoling, where poetry, calligraphy and painting are excellent, and braving the world through a century, his heroic spirit has inscribed the sky and the ground, through his inspired cultivation of the arts planted in Lingnan.

Professor Au Ho-nien is one of China's greatest art masters, a practised poet, a fine painter and a calligrapher of high calibre. His artistic achievements in painting, poetry and calligraphy are powerful and exquisite. In former times, Chen Jiru and Zheng Banqiao were both hailed, throughout Chinese literature, for their mastery of the era's top three perfections. There has scarcely been anyone who could hold a candle to their legacy. Professor Au Ho-nien was born in modern times and is a treasure in the arts world. Professor Au combines strong literary abilities with a vigorous and charming painting style. He also masters the art of Chinese calligraphy. He is a priceless gift to all of Chinese painting, with creative pieces that incorporate myriad styles. Professor Au is a leading figure in contemporary art in Hong Kong, Taiwan and the mainland, and also stands at the forefront of the third generation of the Lingnan school of painting. He is this century's heir apparent to the Chinese traditions of poetry, calligraphy and painting.

In 1935, Professor Au Ho-nien was born to a traditional family of Chinese scholars in Maoming, under Wuchuan in Guangdong. He conformed to the traditions of his family in his childhood. He studied Chinese classics and acquired a good knowledge of traditional Chinese culture. In 1950, he moved to Hong Kong with his father. At the age of 17, he became a protégé of Chao Shao-an, a master of the Lingnan School. He showed signs of a special talent from the very beginning. His work was getting attention in the art world in his twenties. In 1956, he was invited to take part in an exhibition tour in Southeast Asia and in 1957 his artwork was exhibited in the Asian Youth Painting Exhibition. In 1958, he was one of four artists exhibited in the St John's Cathedral Joint Exhibition in Hong Kong, and he also took part in the Fifth Academy Art Exhibition in Ueno, Japan. His talent was fully recognised. In the early 1960s, he was professor at Chung Chi College, prior to the founding of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he taught Chinese painting. Apart from his teaching, Professor Au recruited followers and engaged in creative work. His artwork was showcased numerous times in Hong Kong, Japan, and Southeast Asia. In 1970, he migrated to Taiwan, where he was an art professor in the Chinese Culture University, and at the Fine Art College of the National Taiwan University of Arts. He is currently a Hwa Kang Professor at the Chinese Culture University in Taiwan. When Professor Au held those fine arts teaching posts, he led the faculty and spared no effort to foster talent and train the next generation. He has nurtured many leading young artists in Taiwan. Not only did he teach, he also worked in calligraphy and painting. His highly prolific painting talent was inherited from the style of the Lingnan School, wherein

landscapes, birds, flowers, insects, fish, and all kinds of creatures are painted in vivid detail. His work has been exhibited in Hong Kong and on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, as well as Japan, across Europe and the US. He has been earning applause from all sectors, and has also received numerous prizes, including the Gold Dragon Award of Global Outstanding Scholar in 1999, the first Dragon Culture Golden Award from the International Yanhuang Culture Research Association in 2000, and an award from the French National Society of Fine Arts Biennial Exhibition, Grand Palais Museum of Paris in France.

In the history of Chinese painting, Professor Au belongs to the Lingnan School. This school was founded in the late Qing period by Ju Chao and Ju Lian, focused on painting birds, insects and fishes. The first generation of artists included Gao Jianfu, Gao Qifeng and Chen Shuren, known as the 'Three Masters of the Lingnan'. These three Masters studied in Japan, and incorporated both East Asian styles and Western painting techniques. This led to the development of the Lingnan style, in which the brushwork is strong and the colours are bright. The second generation rose to prominence in the 1930s: Chao Shao-an, Li Xongcai, Guan Shanyue and Yang Shanshen were its representative figures, dubbed the 'Four Great Masters' of the Lingnan School. Professor Au studied with Chao Shao-an, inheriting the landscapes and natural creatures as depicted in the Lingnan style. Combining Eastern and Western techniques, with the addition of modernist elements, not only is tranquillity touched with majesty displayed, but also the glorious colours of the Lingnan tradition, which morphs the Chinese and Western styles. This is a perfect match for CUHK's mission: 'To Combine Tradition with Modernity. To Bring Together China and the West'. The former Director of the Palace Museum in Taipei, Chin Hsiao-Yi, once praised Au Ho-nien as the current Grand Master of the Lingnan School, and there is nothing excessive in this praise. The poet-painter Tsai Ding Hsin also lauded his painting to the heavens in these terms: 'He encompasses the mighty expanses of mountains and rivers, and depicts the anxious reach of the human heart. Billowing clouds and misty seas emerge from his ink, and objects vividly depicted stand out brightly in his compositions. His vigorous and mighty vision gathers all the forms of the cosmos in its generous embrace.'

Professor Au Ho-nien has continued to promote Chinese painting and culture in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and abroad. In order to expand and effectively improve art education in the long run, as well as to innovate and promote the culture of watercolour painting, Professor Au founded the Au Ho-nien Cultural Foundation in 2000, in which a great number of painting classes for children are offered and academic seminars on watercolour painting are held. This aims to popularise arts education and to engage in academic study at a higher level. The purpose is to advance on both fronts so that Chinese art can flourish in the 21st century and bloom once again.

In 2003, Professor Au donated several of his masterpieces, along with masterpieces by the masters of Lingnan School, to the Academia Sinica for the creation of Lingnan Fine Arts Museum, aiming to encourage academic study and cultural preservation. In 2005, he set up the 'Au Ho-nien Art Centre' at the Chinese Culture University, and then three more centres

in the US and China, with the mission of promoting traditional Chinese culture, and the art of the Lingnan School.

Professor Au has a deep and long-standing association with CUHK. He taught at Chung Chi College in his early years, grooming many protégés. Now, his precious works are displayed in the CUHK's University Library, Art Museum, Department of Fine Arts, and Chung Chi College. In 2001, Professor Au kindly presented his couplet to the University General Education Programme: 'Range widely in the past and the present to make your knowledge comprehensive; move with the elaborate and rest with the simple to discern the unique idea.' These inscriptions are displayed at the ground floor of the University Library, encouraging students to simultaneously pursue elaboration and simplicity, featuring both beautiful calligraphy and painting. He is truly a man with a mission.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of Professor Au Ho-nien's outstanding achievements in calligraphy and painting, his contributions to the promotion of Chinese cultural traditions and the advancement of art education, and his support and generosity to The Chinese University of Hong Kong, I have the great honour of presenting to you Professor Au Ho-nien for the award of the degree of Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa*.

**Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*
A Citation**

**The Venerable Master Hsing Yun, PhD (Hon),
Doctor of Educational Administration (Hon), DHum (Hon),
Doctor of Religion Buddhism (Hon), LLD (Hon), LHD (Hon),
LittD (Hon), DSocSc (Hon), DLit (Hon)**

The shining stars, like thousands of Buddha's eyes, observe the world with benevolence and wisdom. The moving clouds, like drawings on the sky's canvas, illuminate the world with colours and hope.

Venerable Master Hsing Yun is a world-renowned religious leader, humanitarian, author, educator and philanthropist. Based in Taiwan, he actively promotes and practises Buddhist culture, dedicating himself to educational and philanthropist endeavours. His influence transcends boundaries, reaching every corner of the world.

Master Hsing Yun was born with the name Li Guoshen in 1927, in Jiangdu (now Yangzhou), Jiangsu Province, China. At the age of 12, he became ordained at a monastery in Qixia Mountain, Nanjing, later graduating from Jiaoshan Buddhist College. In 1949, having arrived in Taiwan, he began to take charge of academic affairs for the Buddhist Seminar in Taiwan. Over the next few years, Master Hsing Yun spoke on the Dharma in cities like Yilan, Taipei and Kaohsiung. In 1967, he founded the Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Order in Kaohsiung with a four-fold vision: promoting Humanistic Buddhism through culture, fostering talent through education, benefitting society through charitable programmes, and purifying human minds through the practice of Buddhism. What is Humanistic Buddhism? In Master Hsing Yun's words, 'Anything that is said by the Buddha, wanted by people, pure and virtuous, and any doctrine that is conducive to advancing the happiness of our life, belongs to Humanistic Buddhism.' After years of development, Humanistic Buddhism leapt from Fo Guang Shan (Buddha's Light Mountain) to the world, and has established itself as one of the most important Buddhist sects among Chinese worldwide and even among mankind as a whole. Over the past decades, Master Hsing Yun has established nearly 300 temples across the globe, including Hsi Lai Temple in the US, Nan Tien Temple in Australia, Nan Hua Temple in Africa, and Zu Lai Temple in Brazil, all of which are the largest temples in their countries or continent. In addition, he has founded a variety of Buddhist institutes, art galleries, libraries, publishing houses, bookstores, mobile libraries, secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens, as well as Cloud and Water book vehicles and hospitals. For tertiary education, he has established five universities: Hsi Lai University in the US, Nan Tien Institute in Australia, Nanhua University and Fo Guang University in Taiwan, and Fo Guang College in the Philippines.

As a proponent of cultural and academic advancement, Master Hsing Yun has also launched numerous publications, including the *Fo Guang Academic Journal*, *Humanistic*

Buddhism and the *Universal Gate Buddhist Journal*. He directed the establishment of the Fo Guang Tripitaka Editing Committee, which has published nearly a thousand issues of *Fo Guang Tripitaka*, as well as the compilation of the Fo Guang Buddhist Dictionary. He also created the Fo Guang Shan Foundation for Buddhist Culture and Education, which has organised and sponsored numerous academic seminars and the publication of theses and journals. Master Hsing Yun is also the founder of Buddha's Light Television, now renamed Beautiful Life Television, and *Merit Times*, the world's first newspaper published by a Buddhist organisation. In 2005, the Fo Guang Shan Foundation for Buddhist Culture and Education and The Chinese University of Hong Kong co-founded the Centre for the Study of Humanistic Buddhism, which not only promotes research on Buddhism and nurtures young Buddhist scholars, but also sponsors related research projects by the Faculty of Arts of the University. Finally, Master Hsing Yun has conducted lectures for CUHK staff and students, as well as members of the public.

Master Hsing Yun is a kind-hearted humanitarian, a man of profound compassion. Despite his beginnings as a humble monk in a mountain temple, he has always been helping mankind and providing relief for disasters and suffering. Since 1970, Fo Guang Shan has set up many children's homes, orphanages, and nursing homes, as well as Cloud and Water Hospitals, Ren-ai Private Retirement Homes, and Fo Guang hospitals, clinics and light lodges. He has actively led and participated in a great number of society's humanitarian causes to provide for the abandoned and elderly, as well as the poor and needy. Over the years, Fo Guang Shan has won universal acclaim for its massive relief and charitable activities in Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland China.

As a prolific author, Master Hsing Yun has written many books preaching the Dharma, which enjoy extensive circulation worldwide and have been translated into more than 20 foreign languages. He has ordained over 2,000 monastics and attracted millions of lay Buddhist devotees around the globe. Moreover, his more than 100 disciples preach throughout China and the world. In 1991, he established the Buddha's Light International Association, which is now the largest Chinese association in the world, with a presence in over 170 countries and regions.

Master Hsing Yun has devoted his efforts to promoting education and culture, engaging in charitable causes and the propagation of the Dharma. He has been credited by Buddhist scholars as one of the forefront leaders in the modern reformation of Buddhism. For his outstanding contributions, Master Hsing Yun has received countless accolades and honours over the years. More than 20 universities have bestowed honorary doctorates upon him, and more than 10 mainland China universities have awarded him the title of Honorary Professor. Several cities in the US, Australia and Taiwan have made him an honorary citizen. He has received the First Class Medal from Taiwan's Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Education. He has also received the National Public Welfare Award, the Ten Outstanding Educational Entrepreneurs Award, and the Presidential Cultural Award – Bodhi Award. He has been honoured with the

Indian National Buddhist Assembly's Buddhist Gem Award, as well as the Prime Minister of Thailand's Buddhist Great Contribution Award. Phoenix Satellite Television awarded him its Peace in Body and Mind Award. The Chinese Writers' & Artists' Association not only gave him its Award for Lifetime Achievement, but also elected him as its Permanent Honorary President. Other recognitions he has received include the Lifetime Achievement Award of first China's People of Chinese Culture, the Annual Mass Media Person of the Year Award by The Light of China, the Lifetime Achievement Award of The Most Influential Chinese People and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Chinese Business Leaders. He has also been recognised with the Award for Outstanding Achievement from the United States Republican Party's Asian Committee under President George W. Bush, and the Contribution Award conferred by the Bayswater City Government.

In recent years, Master Hsing Yun's eyesight has grown weak due to his age, so he has reduced his travels abroad. He has said, 'During a long stretch of time in the past, I kept travelling across the five continents to preach ... Now, I am focusing on exploring the soul of mountain in my heart, instead of experiencing the exterior world.' He also has said, 'The heart is our owner. It dictates our life. You have to understand your heart and nature in order to know yourself and find your way.' That is to say: when your true heart and mind are as clear as a mirror, handling worldly and spiritual matters becomes hassle-free.

Despite his age, Master Hsing Yun remains keen on publishing books of sermons. Through writing and recording his spoken teachings, he shares his explorations of his mountain of soul. These words from the depth of his heart bring wisdom to encourage and enlighten others. His perseverance in acting by example has won tremendous admiration.

Mr Chairman, I have the great honour of presenting to you the Venerable Master Hsing Yun for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*, in recognition of his contributions to cultural, educational and philanthropic causes, as well as his support for Hong Kong society in general, and CUHK in particular.

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* A Citation

The Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma Tao-li GBM, LLD (Hon), LLB

Our university confers its honorary degrees on people who have made valuable contributions to society. They might be doctors or Nobel Prize winning medical researchers who improve our health. They might be businessmen or women who give back some of their wealth to create philanthropic endowments to help the disadvantaged or contribute to other important causes. They might be educators or scholars with responsibility for training the minds of the next generation or helping all of us understand our society better. They might be civil servants or politicians entrusted with government.

These are all vital contributions to society. But there is another profession which actually makes society possible. Without it all the others, the corporate entities and the institutional and governmental structures, many of our individual transactions, our very freedoms and rights, would be unable to function. In order to flourish, or even exist, any free society made up of individuals and institutions needs certainty and fairness, or what we usually call justice. And in order for justice to be done and, just as importantly, for justice to be *seen* to be done, everyone needs to know what the rules are and that they will be applied equally to everyone. And those rules are the laws. Before them everyone must be equal, including governments and businesses. There is abundant evidence that everyone prefers to do business, and preferably to live, in the jurisdictions where that is true.

The people who ensure the proper functioning of the rule of law are, of course, lawyers. That group of lawyers more properly referred to as jurists, those whose job it is to interpret and apply the laws which bind our society together, are surely among the most important people in our community. We all depend on their wisdom, their impartiality and above all their freedom.

We are here today to honour one of Hong Kong's great bastions of that juristic freedom. If our judges and justices collectively have the great responsibility of protecting our rule of law, the highest responsibility of all rests with the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal. And for the last six years that person has been Geoffrey Ma Tao-li.

Geoffrey Ma is a native Hongkonger, born here in 1956. He was educated from an early age in England where he obtained his Bachelor of Laws from Birmingham University at the age of only 21. His father had persuaded him to study for a profession rather than take a history degree, and his brother at Oxford gave him the idea of studying law. So we should all be grateful to Geoffrey's family for steering him in the direction he took. At Birmingham, which is one of the most highly regarded law schools in the country, his teachers were inspiring, and gave him a strong foundation for his subsequent career. He joined Gray's Inn during his third year, and was called to the English Bar in 1978.

After his pupillage in London, Geoffrey Ma returned to Hong Kong and was called to the Bar here in 1980, obtaining his first brief the very next day. He soon moved to Temple Chambers at Pacific Place where he remained, including as Head of Chambers, until he became a judge. He took silk as a Queen's Counsel in 1993. He was also called to the Bar in the State of Victoria in Australia in 1983 and in Singapore in 1990 (where he also practised). An important part of Geoffrey's practice as a silk was in constitutional law which was to stand him in good stead in the future. He was elevated to the Court of First Instance in 2001 and the Court of Appeal in 2002, and was appointed Chief Judge of the High Court in 2003. He has been Chairman of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission and a Member of the Law Reform Commission since 2010 and was heavily engaged in the reform of the Civil Justice System in Hong Kong. He is the Editor-in-Chief of *Arbitration in Hong Kong: A Practical Guide* (2003) and *Professional Conduct and Risk Management in Hong Kong* (2007).

Chief Justice Ma became an Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn in 2004. He is only the third person in Hong Kong to receive this honour. He was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* by the University of Birmingham in 2011, and became an Honorary Fellow of Harris Manchester College at Oxford University in 2012. He was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal in June 2012. Last month, he became an Honorary Bencher of Middle Temple as well.

His many non-legal contributions to Hong Kong society include roles as Chairman of the Appeal Tribunal Panel for Buildings (1994-2001) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Appeal Board Panel (2001); Deputy Chairman of the Board of Review Panel (Inland Revenue) (1997-2000) and the Securities and Futures Commission Appeals Panel (1999-2001); and Member of the Hong Kong Futures Exchange Disciplinary Appeal Tribunal (1994-2001) and Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Boards (1991-2001). He has been President of the Hong Kong Scout Association since 2008.

Geoffrey Ma's father once told him that if we had another life we should keep the same family, but try something new and different in our careers. Chief Justice Ma is in no doubt about his family, who helped to set him on his path in life, and who include his wife Maria Yuen Ka-ning, who is also a Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal, and their daughter. As for career, it is hard to imagine anything he could have done in another life which would have been of greater value to our community.

Many people in this audience will have been present three years ago to hear Chief Justice Ma give one of CUHK's 50th Anniversary Distinguished Lectures. Its title was 'The Essence of Our Society: from a Written Constitution to Reality and into the Future 50 Years'. He spoke about the Basic Law, which he said, 'provides a guarantee of rights and liberties, enabling everyone in Hong Kong to live a full life, pursue happiness and have the peace of mind of knowing that there is an entity: the law — before which everyone is equal and on which reliance can safely be placed to protect them and their families.' As he explained, an independent judiciary enforcing those rights and liberties and continuing to

earn the respect and confidence of the community is an essential part of the Basic Law. At this present moment in Hong Kong's history our need for that independent judiciary has never been greater, and no one has a more essential role within it than the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal.

For his unique contribution to sustaining and preserving the legal foundations of Hong Kong society, it gives me great pleasure, Mr Chairman, to present to you the Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

This citation is written by Professor Simon Haines